

Newsletter of CityNet, the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements

General Council and Executive Committee give fresh mandate to 2001

The 3rd General Council and two Executive Committee meetings at the Yokohama Congress brought a comprehensive review of activity over the past four years, a strategy agreement to 2001 in the Medium-Term Plan and a fresh mandate for Network officers.

10th Executive Committee

The 10th Executive Committee Meeting was held in Pacifico Yokohama Conference Centre on 22 November. Executive Committee members from Colombo, Kuala Lumpur, Lyon, Mumbai, Seoul, Shanghai, Yokohama, ACHR and UCDO attended, with advisors from ESCAP Rural and Urban Development Division, UNCHS Urban Management Programme, and observers from Sapporo (Japan), Bangkok and the UNDP's TCDC Unit. The meeting was co-organised by CityNet and the City of Yokohama, and supported by UNDP-UMPAP.

The meeting approved a range of reports on institutional and programme activities during 1996-97.

Also agreed was future policy on the suspension of members. Decisions on the

Continued on Page 2

Yokohama 22-25 November 1997 Congress - marking 10 years of progress



The General Council made decisions on policy and elected officers to 2001 See article left.

123 participants from 20 countries, representing 36 member cities and 24 other organisations, 18 different events, an estimated 30,000 public visitors, an outstanding range of speakers and panelists, and concrete recommendations for future directions - these were some of the achievements of last November's CityNet '97 Yokohama Congress. This issue of CityVoice gives a roundup of what happened.

23 November Opening Ceremony and Keynote Speech

Mayor Hidenobu Takahide of Yokohama opened the Congress, followed by a message from the Executive Director of UNCHS, to a capacity audience in Pacifico Yokohama Convention Centre's 1000-seat main hall. CityNet Secretary-General Dato' Lakhbir Singh Chahl then gave an overview presentation on CityNet.

Ambassador and Plenipotentiary to Japan's Permanent Mission to the UN, His Excellency Hisashi Owada, gave a keynote speech on "International Co-operation in the Coming Century."

Mayors Forum on Asia and the Pacific

The Forum saw a succinct discussion between a panel of mayors from Bangkok, Guntur, Mumbai, Shanghai and Yokohama, chaired by UMP/UNCHS Regional Co-ordinator for Asia and the Pacific, Nathaniel von Einsiedel. Also represented at the meeting were over 20 mayors from CityNet member cities.

The Forum was an opportunity to reflect on specific urban problems, how they could be tackled and the lessons that could be drawn. It proposed ideas for innovation, public participation and the transfer of good practice. □

CityNet would like to thank the Mayor and City of Yokohama for generously hosting CityNet '97 Yokohama Congress.

In this issue

- New CityNet members and officers . 2
- Tcdc Forum 2
- Public Forums 3
- International meeting round-up. . . . 3
- Programmes and activities for 1998 - a summary 4
- Announcements 4
- Now in Print -new and upcoming CityNet publications 4
- New! Acronym guide!**
- A path through the acronym jungle . 4

10th Executive Committee, from Page 1

New CityNet members

Cities	
India	Ahmedabad Allahabad Bangalore
Indonesia	Balikpapan
Iran	Esfahan
Korea	Inchon Suwon
Myanmar	Yangon

membership fee structure, and on whether to pay to join WACLAC, were deferred.

3rd General Council

The meeting, held in Yokohama Symposia Conference Centre on 25 November, was attended by representatives from 15 countries, including 34 full and 26 associate members.

Finances, institutional and programme activities from 1994-97 were reviewed. A new Medium-Term Plan for 1998-2001 was agreed, stressing capacity-building and the creation of an enabling framework for local partnership-building, as well as making proposals for fund-raising.

The Network's officers for 1998-2001 were elected.

Elected officers 1998-2001

President	Yokohama
Senior Vice-President	Mumbai
Vice-President	Bangkok
Auditor	Muntinlupa
Executive Committee	Colombo Kuala Lumpur Seoul Shanghai Lyon ACHR HUDCO
Secretary-General	Dato' Lakhbir Singh Chahl

The meeting made an amendment to the Charter, and felt that a general Charter review was now due.

Bangkok generously offered to host the 5th Congress in 2001.

11th Executive Committee

There was a further Executive Committee session directly after the General Council, and the newly-elected officers approved institutional and programme activities and the budget for 1998-99. Representatives from Bangkok, Colombo, Kuala Lumpur, Mumbai, Shanghai, Yokohama, Lyon, HUDCO, and ACHR attended, as well as advisers from ESCAP.

HUDCO generously offered to host the Executive Committee 12th session in New Delhi. □

23-24 November

TcDC Forum

CityNet has helped to organise more than 30 Technical Co-operation among Developing Cities -TcDC - projects to date. This ambitious Forum served to disseminate and exchange information on best practices, analyse the effectiveness of TcDC visits, and discuss the role and responsibilities of the private sector, universities and international organisations in partnership-building with other urban stakeholders.

The Forum, a regional follow-up to last July's UNDP International Colloquium of Mayors and Civil Society Organisation Dialogue in New York, was held in Pacifico Yokohama Conference Centre and organised in collaboration with the City of Yokohama, with sponsorship from UMPAP and the UNDP Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.

Review of best and sustainable practices

After an introduction to TcDC and best practices by CityNet's Programme Manager, UNCHS Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme Co-ordinator Nicholas You gave an overview paper, "Learning from the Best: New Paradigms and Tools for Decentralised City-to-City Co-operation," in which he identified tangible impact, building partnership and sustainability as criteria for a best practice.

Cases presented included the WHO Healthy Cities Programme, Integrated Solid Waste Collection in Olongapo (Philippines), Sewa Bank's Women's Self-Help Organisation for Poverty Alleviation in India, Participatory Financial Management in Ahmedabad, and Public-Private Partnership in Yokohama Minato Mirai 21 (Japan).

TcDC visits: review and follow-up

Mr. Sharouh Sharif of the UNDP's TcDC Special Unit gave an overview paper, "South-South Cooperation - a Basis for Transferring Effective Practices." Other case studies were "What Sevathatha Learnt from Sewa Bank and SPARC," "What Tansen Learnt from Olongapo," "What the Inter-Indonesian Municipalities Organisation Learnt from the Urban Basic Services Programme in India," and "What Bangkok Learnt from the Orangi Pilot Project in Karachi and from Exnora in Chennai (Madras)."

Strengthening partnership roles

The session showcased the roles of different stakeholders in creating urban partnership. National government was represented by HMSI, while there was an expert on private sector collaboration from APCF. NGO's were represented by ACHR; cities, by the Mayor of Kandy, Sri Lanka; the UN, by the UNCHS Fukuoka office in Japan, and universities, by Nihon Fukushima University, also in Japan.

Findings and recommendations

There was a consensus that TcDC visits can be effective and that the programme should expand, with CityNet identifying potential partners for visits and publishing guidelines.

TcDC needs-matching session

In a TcDC needs-matching session after the General Council, members asked for and offered each other help on specific problems, with support from international agencies.

If you would like to know more

Contact CityNet's Programme Manager at the Secretariat. Address on p4 □

"This is what CityNet should be about..."

Lunchtime lecture: Are we threatening our fertility, intelligence and survival?

Dr. Taisen Iguchi of Yokohama City University gave a lunchtime lecture on environmental hormones, co-ordinated by Dr. Antonio Fernandez of UNCRD.

Public Forums Nga Festival, Exchange Zone

Two Public Forums, an Urban Partnership Forum, an Ngo Festival and an "Exchange Zone", held at Pacifico Yokohama and nearby shopping mall Queen's Square, attracted lively public interest. Below is a summary of events.

23 November Public Forum I - People at the Cross-roads of Asia

The Forum was organised by the City of Yokohama and Yokohama Women's Association for Communication and Networking (YWACN) and co-ordinated by YWACN President Makiko Arima. It was an opportunity to reflect and gain new perspectives on the cultural diversity of Asia. Panelists were: cultural critic Tetsuro Morimoto, travel planner Masako Osodo, writer Susumu Nomura, film producer Mio Hani, and Prateep Ungsongtham Hata, of CityNet member Duang Prateep Foundation in Thailand.

24 November Public Forum II - Current International Co-operation Needs

A panel of NGO representatives discussed issues of international co-operation and how individuals could get involved. The session was organised by Yokohama International Association for Communication and Exchanges and co-ordinated by Takashi Shimosawa of ShaplaNeer. Panelists and organisers included Kenji Isezaki of Plan International Japan, Maki Okubo of Asahi Shinbun, Noriyuki Omata of the Foundation for Handicapped Children Yokohama, Misa Kojima of Grassroots, and Kyoko Nyui of Global People's Foundation *Earth Tree*.

24 November Urban Partnership Forum - Present Tasks and Future Outlook

A case study session co-ordinated by Dr. Kunio Takase, Executive Director of the International Development Centre of Japan, heard examples of urban partnership from the International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities, Kitakyushu, Yokohama's Urban Planning Bureau and Housing and Architecture Bureau, Kathmandu, Penang Town Planning Department, and Shanghai Housing Development Bureau.

A panel discussion co-ordinated by Toshimitsu Shimizu of Yokohama City University gave new insights on future directions for partnerships involving local authorities, universities and NGO's. Panelists from Seinan Gakuin University, the Japanese Ministry of Home Affairs, Japan International Co-operation Agency, Japan Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund, Sotoshu Volunteer Association and Yokohama Urban Planning Bureau gave many concrete suggestions for future directions in urban partnership.

23-24 November Ngo Festival and Exchange Zone

The Exchange Zone was a chance for the public to meet representatives from CityNet member cities and organisations, with exhibitions, music and dance performances. 34 members, ten international co-operation associations, and four Japanese local authorities joined local voluntary groups and corporate stands to stage the event.

The Ngo Festival created an open space for Ngo's and buzzed with workshops, booths, craft sales, live performances, and impromptu meetings. 38 groups organised and took part in the Festival, which attracted crowds of thousands over the two days. □

International meeting roundup

Two recent meetings of interest to members and attended by CityNet representatives.

Jaipur meet defines new role for mayors

Frameworks for solutions to urban problems were the dominant issue of the **World Mayors' Conference on the New Role of Mayors in a Changing Global Scenario** in Jaipur, India. The conference, from 10-12 January this year, was co-organised by CityNet member AILSG and Jaipur Municipal Corporation. It was attended by CityNet's Secretary General.

A 16-point Congress declaration called for strategic planning, effective systems of municipal finance, direct access to the open loan market, participatory democracy and accountability, tougher legal frameworks for environmental protection, and decentralised service delivery.

Towards a regional information strategy

An Expert Meeting to Consider the Establishment of a Regional Information Centre for the Asia-Pacific Region agreed a plan to pilot a network in India, making use of information technology and increasing information-sharing and mutual learning.

The meeting, held after the Mayors' Conference in Jaipur from 12-15 January, was co-sponsored by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, the Commonwealth Secretariat and UNDP, in collaboration with AILSG. CityNet's Secretary-General attended.

If the Indian pilot is successful, a three-phase plan envisages the eventual expansion of the network across the region. The plan aims to promote partnership, support institutional capacity-building and moves toward decentralisation, as well as promote good local government, and increase citizens' knowledge of the role and activities of local government. □

Congress report in print

The City of Yokohama has published a report on the Congress. Each member city or organisation is being sent a copy. To see the report, ask your organisation's contact person.

Asia-Pacific Cities Forum

An APCF meeting at the Congress allowed the region's "thinkers, doers, movers and shakers" to discuss ways of taking concerted rather than ad-hoc action. Contact APCF for further details (*see p4*).

1998: Upcoming events

CityNet programmes and activities

March

Tcdc Best Practices visit by HUDCO/HSMI to study the Government Housing Bank in Thailand

Tcdc Best Practices visit by Guntur, India, to study Integrated Solid Waste Management in Olongapo, Philippines

May

Training-cum-Study Visit on Innovative Financial Management in Ahmedabad, India

July

Training-cum-study visit to the Integrated Solid Waste Management project in Olongapo, Philippines

October

Twelfth Session of the Executive Committee, New Delhi

November 20-23

Urban Design Forum, Yokohama

December 14-16

HSMI Seminar on Urban Infrastructure Finance and Pricing, New Delhi

Ongoing

Tcdc Best Practices Programme

Other announcements

Urban Infrastructure - Financing and Pricing, New Delhi, 14-16 December 1998

A seminar organised by the Human Settlement Management Institute (HSMI), dealing with "innovative and path-breaking experiences of municipal efforts in infrastructure development."

Contact:

Executive Director, HSMI, HUDCO House, Lodhi Rd, New Delhi 110003, India

Tel: (91-11)-46- 9535

Fax: (91-11)-46- 1292 / 64- 3726

Habitat awards - call for 1998 entries

The Building and Social Housing Foundation is calling for projects in both developed and developing countries "which offer sustainable futures to residents and which provide practical and imaginative solutions to current housing problems."

Preliminary submissions should be made by **1 July 1998** to:

Diane Diacon, Deputy Director,
Memorial Square, Coalville,
Leicestershire LE67 3TU, United Kingdom
Tel: (44)-1530-51-0444
Fax: (44)-1530-51-0332
Email: 100567.3433@compuserve.com

◆**CityNet: Ten Years of Progress** - an overview of the Network's development and activities 1987-97.

◆**Partnership for Local Action** - a sourcebook for local government staff on participatory approaches to shelter and human settlements improvement, produced jointly with the UNCHS Community Development Programme for Asia.

Your city or organisation receives one free copy; you are welcome to buy further copies from the Secretariat.

Look out a further CityNet publication due out this spring:

◆**Guidelines for the Tcdc Programme**

Contact information

A selection of organisations cited in this issue of CityVoice are listed below.

All India Institute of Local Self Government
R.S. Chavan, Director General
Sthanikraj Bhavan, C.D. Barfiwala Marg, Andheri West,
Mumbai 400 058, India
Tel: (91-22) 620-6716; Fax: (91-22) 620-5670

ASIA-PACIFIC CITIES FORUM
Akhtar A. Badshah, Executive Director, APCF,
21 Helen St., Warren, N.Y. 07059, USA
Tel: (1-908) 561-3072; Fax: (1-908) 755-5717
Email: abadshah@msn.com

Commonwealth Local Government Forum
Carl Wright, Director, CLGF, 35, Great Smith Street,
London SW1P 3BJ, United Kingdom
Tel: (171) 799-1730; Fax: (171) 799-1731
Email: CLGF@compuserve.com

UMP-Asia
Nathaniel von Einsiedel, Regional Co-ordinator,
UNDP/UNCHS (Habitat) Regional Office for Asia & the
Pacific, Asian Institute of Technology, P.O. Box 4, Klong
Luang, Pathumthani 12120 Thailand
Tel: (66-2) 524-6205 Fax: (66-2) 524-6132
Email: ump@ait.ac.th

UMPAP
Anwar Fazal, Regional Co-ordinator, Asia-Pacific 2000,
P.O.Box 12544, 50782 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: (60-3) 255-9122, Fax: (60-3) 253-2361
Email: umpap@po.jaring.my

UNCHS Best Practices
Nicholas You, Co-ordinator, UNCHS (Habitat),
P.O. Box 300 30, Nairobi, Kenya.
Tel: (2-542) 623 029, Fax: (2-542) 623 080
Email: nicholas.you@unchs.org

Acronym guide

Confused by all those acronyms? Here's a guide to ones used in this issue.

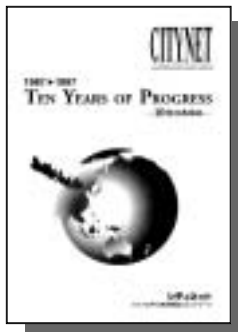
ACHR	Asian Coalition for Housing Rights
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIIJSG	All-India Institute of Local Self-Government
APCF	Asia-Pacific Cities Forum
ESCAP	Economic & Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific
HSMI	Human Settlement Management Institute (India)
HUDCO	Housing & Urban Development Corporation (India)
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
SPARC	Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (India)
TCDC	Technical Co-operation among Developing Cities
UCDO	Urban Community Development Office (Thailand)
UMP	Urban Management Programme
UMPAP	Urban Management Programme for Asia & the Pacific
UN	United Nations
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
UNCRD	United Nations Centre for Regional Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WACLAC	World Assembly of Cities & Local Authorities Coordination

CityVoice is the newsletter of CityNet. You are welcome to use and reproduce articles from CityVoice, provided you cite the source and send a copy to:

Annie Hubert, CityNet,
5F, International Organizations Center,
Pacifico Yokohama, 1-1-1 Minato Mirai,
Nishi-ku, Yokohama 220-0012, Japan
Tel: (81-45) 223-2161; Fax: (81-45) 223-2162
Email: citynet@po.ijnet.or.jp
Homepage: <http://www2.itjite.jp/~citynet>

CityVoice ISSN no. 0919-2921

Now
in
Print



Three new CityNet publications are now available from the Secretariat:

◆**Member Profiles** - key information on 43 CityNet members in easily accessible form.